

VZCZCXRO3580
PP RUEHQU
DE RUEHPU #0186 0391744
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 081744Z FEB 08 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7629
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1786
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 1591
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY 1014
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1421

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 000186

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/EX AND WHA/CAR
S/CRS
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR
INR/IAA
WHA/EX PLEASE PASS USOAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [HA](#)

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 4 REPATRIATION OF 131 MIGRANTS

¶1. On February 4, the US Coast Guard (USCG) transferred 131 Haitian migrants into the custody of the GoH in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. On February 2, the USCG intercepted a 40-foot sail freighter carrying these 131 Haitian migrants 30 nautical miles west of Great Inagua, the Bahamas.

¶2. The migrants claimed that Nassau, The Bahamas was their final destination. Five migrants said that they paid 10,000 Haitian gourdes (\$274) for the voyage. All other interlocutors asserted that they did not pay a fee. The non-paying migrants claimed to have boarded the vessel at the last moment when it became clear that the vessel was departing for a clandestine voyage. The USCG was not able to identify the sail freighter's crew.

¶3. For calendar year 2008, the USCG has repatriated 374 migrants.
SANDERSON